(b) what is the total recovery of these loans during this period;

(c) whether Government have exempted interest payment of these loans during the last year on account of scarcity condition; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) According to the statutes governing Public Sector Banks and according to the practices and usages customary amongst bankers, information relating to or affairs of individual costituents cannot be divulged. Information relating to names of farmers to whom loans have been given cannot be disclosed. The amount of agricultural loans disbursed by all scheduled commercial banks to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh during the three years (latest available) ended June 1984, 1985 and 1986 was as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Loans issued
1984	11838.71
1985	19738.31
1986	20686.23

The recovery performance of all scheduled commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh in respect of Direct Agriculture advances during 1984, 1985 and 1986 was 53.9 per cent, 54.3 per cent and 56.9 per cent respectively.

Normally relief and concessions to farmers affected by natural calamities such as flood, drought, cyclones, etc. are provided by way of grant of additional crop loans, conversion of short term loans into medium and long term loans, reschedulement of payment of principal and interest, etc. In view of this, NABARD and RBI have deferred for a period of two years or till the next normal year, if it occurs earlier, the recovery of the amounts falling due on account of principal as well as interest in the year 1987-88 in respect of short term loans converted/rescheduled as medium term loans in areas affected by drought/flood for 3 or more years in sucession.

CBI raid on Sanjay Singh's residence

792. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI raid on Shri Sanjay Singh's Lucknow residence was covered and broadcast by Doordarshan as published in India Today of the 30th September, 1988 issue; if so, the reasons for giving prior information of the raid by the CBI to Doordarshan;

(b) whether the investigating officials of the CBI had regularly briefed the Press in Lucknow about the illicit relationship concerning Shri Singh and thus defamed them;

(c) whether it is a fact that of late Government have been expressing great concern against defamation of individuals by the media; and

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken against the CBI officials, Director-General of AIR and Doordarshan, their News Editor and the announcer; if no action is proposed, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have informed that Doordarshan had not covered visually the raid on Shri Sanjay Singh's Lucknow residence. Dry story of the search by the CBI team was telecast in the national bulletins.

(b) CBI have intimated that the investigating officials of the CBI at Lucknow responded to legitimate questions by the Press on the investigation of Syed Modi murder case.

(c) and (d) In view of the above the question of taking action against

any official of the CBI or AIR or Doordarshan does not arise.

Commission received by Concord International from Sumitomo Corporation

793. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Times of India of 15th September, 1988 to the effect that Shri Vinod Khanna of Concord International had received commission of about Rs. 8.5 crores from Sumitomo Corporation during 1985 and 1986 for winning the contract for supplying to ONGC and Gas Authority of India with heavy electrical machinery for HBJ Pipeline Project and that payment in foreign exchange was made to a front company in Panama which paid to a firm in London from where it went to Shri Khanna in Mauritius via West Germany; and

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof and when these irregularities came to Government's notice and what action has been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Consequent upon search action taken against Concord International, Delhi, a company of Mr. Vinod Kumar Khanna, by Income-tax Deptt. on 5-2-87, certain incriminating documents indicating that the company had received approximately Japanese Yen 525 million and US $ 2 million (about Rs. 8.5 crores) worth of commission from M/s. Sumitomo Corpn. Japan, which was not repatriated to India Based on the above facts that an amount of Rs. 8.5 crores had not been repatriated to India in contravention of the provisions of the FERA, the Directorate of Enforcement have initiated invesigations into the matter.

"Study conducted by the centre on the effect of Chloro Sulphonic acid on human beings"

794. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the senior officers of the Government of India from the Department of Environment visited Bhopal to study the effects of Chloro sulphonic acid on human beings which leaked from the Bhopal based pesticides plant of Union Carbide of India Limited;

(b) whether the study was conducted during the first week of September this year when the fresh leakage of toxic chloro sulphonic acid from the plant was noticed; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the report of the Central Study Team?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After leakage of chloro sulphonic acid was noticed in one of the storage tanks in the Union Carbide India Ltd. (UCIL), Bhopal in June, 1988, some senior officers of the Government of India had visited the plant several times both to assess the impact of the leakage of the chloro sulphonic acid and to advise on its neutralisation and monitor the disposal of the decomposed material. The decomposition and neutralisation of the left-over CSA sludge from all the three tanks was completed in the first week of September, 1988.